

SHORTER NOTES

THE ANDROPOGON-VIOLA UROMYCES. — A note has previously been published in TORREYA * on the probable identity of an *Aecidium* on *Viola* and of the *Uromyces andropogonis* Tracy on *Andropogon virginicus* L. This conclusion was reached after repeated observations and inoculations had been made in the field. Proof of their identity was obtained during the spring of 1909 by inoculating violet leaves, under control conditions, with teleuto-spores of the *Uromyces*. Seven days after the inoculations were made, spermogonia began to show on the violet leaves, followed by mature aecidia on the fifteenth day.

In reply to a letter to Professor J. C. Arthur, concerning the nomenclature of the rust, he states that "Tracy published his *Uromyces andropogonis* in 1893, while *Caeoma (Aecidium) pedatatum* Schw. dates from 1832." This being the case, the name of the rust becomes **Uromyces pedatatus** (Schw.) n. comb.

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A NEW PONTHIEVA FROM THE BAHAMAS: **Ponthieva Brittonæ** sp. nov.

Aff. *P. racemosæ* (Walt.) Mohr, *sed in floribus minor et in racemo angustior*. Radices elongatæ, flexuosæ, villosæ. Folia rosulata, oblongi-lanceolata vel oblanceolata, 4-10 cm. longa, 1.5-3.5 cm. lata, acuta ad basim in petiolum sulcatum 1-2.5 cm. longum contracta. Scapus teres, gracilis 26.5-37 cm. altus. Bracteæ oblongæ, acuminatæ, acutæ. Inflorescentia racemosa. Racemus, floribus 20-35, 1-1.8 dm. longus, circa 2 cm. in diametro, laxiflorus, pubescens. Bracteæ inflorescentiæ oblongæ, acuminatæ, valde acutæ, circa 5 mm. longæ. Pedicellus cum ovario 7-9 mm. longus.† *Sepala lateralia* ovato-lanceolata, 4 mm. longa, 2 mm. lata. *Sepalum dorsale* oblongi-lanceolatum, obtusum. *Petala* lanceolata pauci-nervia, obtusa, 4.5 mm. longa. *Labellum* sub-saccatum, 4.5 mm. longum, 3-lobatum; *lobi laterales* rotundati; *lobus medius* oblongus, obtusus, 1 mm. longus, 0.5 mm. latus.

*Torreya 9: 54. 1909.

† This measurement applies to open flowers.

Ponthieva Brittonæ is very closely allied to *P. racemosa* from which it differs chiefly in its smaller flowers, slenderer raceme, and in its differently formed petals.

BAHAMAS, NEW PROVIDENCE: Maidenhead Coppice, February 7, 1905, *E. G. Britton* (no. 3297). *Type* in Hb. New York Botanical Garden; *Co-type* in Hb. Ames.

OAKES AMES

ANSWERS TO THE WISCONSIN RIDDLE. — In TORREYA for February, 1910, Mr. S. B. Parish asks for information as to certain plants referred to by Father Dablon in the Jesuit Relations as occurring on the Fox river in Wisconsin. Of course I cannot answer his query definitely but I suggest that the "kind of lime resembling that of France but having no bitter taste, not even in its rind" and which "slightly resembles the fern" may be the fruit of *Podophyllum peltatum* L. The shape and color of the fruit might suggest the lime, and the plant a remote resemblance to the brake. The identity of the second plant is more doubtful as there are so many "snake-roots"; but *Polygala Senega* L., occurred to me in that connection.

J. J. DAVIS

RACINE, WISCONSIN

Dr. Roland M. Harper, referring to the "lime" mentioned in the February TORREYA says: "I read Mr. Parish's 'Wisconsin riddle' with considerable interest, for there are a good many analogous cases in the southeastern states in the writings of Bartram and other early travelers. Although I have never been within several hundred miles of Wisconsin, I think I can suggest an answer to the first part of the riddle. There are said to be some species of *Astragalus* with fleshy (perhaps edible?) fruit out that way, and as the leaves in that genus are pinnate a comparison with a fern would not be very far-fetched." With reference to *Podophyllum* Dr. Harper says: "*Podophyllum* would be a pretty good guess for that Wisconsin plant, but for the fact that in the East it is a typical shade plant, and I could hardly think of it as growing on a prairie. But of course it may behave differently in the West, for all I know."